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Tacoma Narrows Bridge Electronic Toll System Now Available
Drivers Could Win a Year of Free Tolls for Signing Up

GIG HARBOR – The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) today announced *Good To Go!*, the state's first electronic toll collection system, is now available. When the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge opens this summer, *Good To Go!* will allow drivers to pay tolls without stopping at a tollbooth.

WSDOT is also sponsoring a sweepstakes to encourage drivers to sign up for *Good To Go!*. Every private vehicle owner who signs up through September 2007 will automatically be entered in monthly drawings for the opportunity to win a year of free tolls or a prepaid gasoline card.

"Your pass for a faster commute across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge is now available!" said WSDOT Assistant Secretary John Conrad. "*Good To Go!* is going to revolutionize driving in our state."

***Good To Go!* is easy to get and use – and signing up is free of charge.**

Good To Go! utilizes a small transponder that adheres to the inside of a vehicle's windshield that can be read by an antenna mounted over the roadway. Each time a vehicle approaches the toll collection area, the antenna reads the transponder and the system automatically debits the toll from the *Good To Go!* customer's prepaid account, allowing the driver to maintain highway speeds.

Good To Go! is easy to get and use – and there is no charge to sign up. You can sign up online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/goodtogo, by calling toll free (866) 936-8246, faxing an application to (253) 853-4235 or by visiting the customer service center located at 3212 50th Street Court, Suite 200, Gig Harbor WA, 98335. Applications also can be mailed to this location, too.

"We want as many people signed up for *Good to Go!!* as possible prior to bridge opening," added Conrad. "Every commuter on board is one less person frustrated with stopping and waiting in line at the toll plaza."

Background on *Good To Go!*

The *Good To Go!* system will debut in Washington state with the opening of the new eastbound Tacoma Narrows Bridge on State Route 16. When the new bridge opens later this summer, all eastbound drivers crossing the bridge will pay a toll in one of two ways:

- 1) stop at the toll plaza to pay manually with cash, labeled debit card, or credit card; or
- 2) open a prepaid *Good To Go!* account, place a small transponder on the vehicle's windshield and use the exclusive *Good To Go!* express lanes. With *Good To Go!* drivers can pay electronically each time they use the new bridge, thus avoiding the lines at the toll plaza and maintaining highway speeds by driving in the express lanes.

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The *Good To Go!* system allows drivers the flexibility to open one account or numerous accounts. Customers signing up for *Good To Go!* will receive up to six transponders free of charge. They will be able to review their account activity online, or request a monthly or quarterly statement detailing usage. The account can be automatically replenished from their credit card, debit card or auto draft check when the equivalent of two trips are left on the balance.

Violators who use the *Good To Go!* express lanes without paying will be fined – a camera takes a picture of the license plate and a citation is mailed.

While this is the first application of electronic toll collection in Washington, similar systems are in operation around the world and serve millions of commuters and commercial vehicle operators every day. *Good To Go!* will be used on all of Washington's future tolling projects.

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